(b) whether it is a fact that a Post Office has been running on ground floor in 11/88, Gita Colony since 1979 and five years lease of the above Post Office expired in 1984;

(a) whether it is also a fact that the owner of the building who is a retired Government servant has been requesting since 1984 for vacation of the said premises on medical grounds for bonafide needs;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not vacating the building so far despite the fact that alternative sites were made available to that Post Office; and

(e) by when Government propose to vacate the said building ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of Post Offices running in private building in Delhi is 285.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The building could not be vacated because despite best efforts alternative accommodation in the same colony could not be found. Though DDA has allotted a plot of land to the Department for construction of the Post Office building in Gita Colony, construction of post office building on this land could not take place as the land was heavily encroached. The Department is making efforts to get from DDA another alternative plot of the same size and suitability.

(e) Vacation of the present rented building can be considered when an alternative suitable accommodation is found.

Structural Changes to Improve the Telecom Sector

1573. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Government have critically examined the existing Indian Telecom set up and its related issues regarding qualify of structure between DOT and MTNL to know its utility or otherwise in meeting the changing demand in terms of availability and level of service;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the structural changes if any, contemplated by Government in the telecom sector to improve its functioning to meet the changed requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Committee on Reorganisation of Telecom Department are under consideration of the Government.

City/Town connected with same Telephone Exchange

1574. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of cases in which more than one city/town are connected to the same telephone exchange and the calls are treated as local calls; and

(b) what are the norms in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decision to allow States to Operate Telecom Networks

1575. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to allow States to operate telecom networks;

(b) if so, what has been the response of the State Governments to the decision;

(c) what are the details of the proposals received from the State Governments particularly, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Goa; and

(d) what are the details of the decision taken thereon alongwith the implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir, whereever State Governments are setting up big